



# ***Maine Fire Service Institute Director's Biweekly Update November 1, 2012***

## **"Why Codes Matter!"**

It did not take me too much time early in my career to realize how important fire and building codes applied to my work as a firefighter, fire instructor or fire officer. Early in my career my father was a Fire Marshal and I learned that fire and building codes were extremely important in my work. My father used to say "it is not so much that you memorize the codes but more importantly you need to know where and how to look them up and why there were established." I will never forget his words. As I watched the impact he had on our community I realized he practiced what he preached.

The words of my father amazingly came to life even after he retired when the fire chief received a letter from a facility manager from a community institution. The facility manager reported that he never thought that the fire inspection my father had conducted several years prior applying fire codes in a chemistry lab would be life-saving. As a result of my father's approach to the inspection a major disaster was averted when the preventative measures presented by my father were put into practice. My father believed that while we may never be able to prevent all fires from occurring proper fire and life safety preventative measures help make our communities safer for firefighters to fight fires.

The lessons I learned by my father's proactive approach are applicable to this day. As a firefighter of any rank or fire instructor we must realize that fire and building codes may be the best tool to keep us safe and in some cases cause us to approach an incident differently. Any efforts taken to construct homes, businesses and other occupancies applying fire and building codes in a proactive approach may it safer for our communities and firefighters.

I encourage every firefighter or fire instructor regardless of rank to take some time looking at your own community to see how fire and building codes can make firefighting safer or in some situations cause unique challenges in mitigating incidents.

Here are some important fire and building code items that are critical to understand:

- ✓ Fire and Building Codes often provide an avenue to ensure proactive consideration is given to life safety.
- ✓ Fire and Building Codes provide some safeguards to minimize firefighter risks during emergency incidents.
- ✓ Some Building Codes are created based on economic factors not life safety.



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- ✓ New building materials while often code compliant may often burn faster and fail in a fire situation.

Every firefighter should understand that fire and building codes are very important to incident safety and survival. Take some time to understand how fire and building codes impact your community!

### **"Farmington Firefighter/MFSI Instructor Named Maine Fire Instructor of the Year"**

A 15 year fire service veteran, Lt. Tim D. Hardy of the Farmington Fire Rescue and a Maine Fire Service Institute Fire Instructor was awarded the **Maine Fire Instructor of the Year** Sunday October 21, 2012 in Brunswick. The award was presented by the Maine Fire Service Institute Director Bill Guindon during the Maine Fire Service Institute's Fall Instructor Workshop held in late October in Brunswick.

The award has been established and dedicated to the memory of Deputy Chief Marc Bellefeuille who was widely respected as an instructor for fire training and education. He was coordinator for the Maine State Weekend at the National Fire Academy. He dedicated 38 years to the fire service before retiring in April of 2011. Deputy Chief Bellefeuille passed away last year.

The "Deputy Chief Marc Bellefeuille" Instructor of the Year is presented to a fire service instructor whose acts and deeds serve as an example to the profession, their department and peers alike. The instructor of the year demonstrates an ongoing commitment to serving Maine's fire service by teaching and encouraging others to progress themselves and/or their organization in pursuit of excellence.

Lt. Tim Hardy was chosen for the "Deputy Chief Marc Bellefeuille Instructor of the Year" Award for demonstrating outstanding commitment and extraordinary accomplishments in fire service training. Lt. Hardy displayed a deep commitment to furthering the cause of the fire service training locally, regionally and throughout the state. Lt. Hardy was nominated by his peers along with other fire service instructors during the statewide nomination period held in August of this year

### ***Special Announcement from the MFSI Director!***

It is my privilege to announcement the appointment of our new Deputy Director of Operations for the Maine Fire Service Institute. Mr. Jim Graves who is currently working with the Maine Office of State Fire Marshal and serves as one of our MFSI Instructors will begin work with MFSI on Monday November 19, 2012. Please join me in welcoming Jim aboard!



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### ***Important Notice from the National Fire Academy for anyone applying for on campus, off campus and online programs!***

National Fire Academy students interested in applying for **on-campus (10-/6-/2-day)**, **off-campus (10-/6-/2-day)** and **NFA Online courses** need to register for a FEMA Student Identification Number (SID). This number is used in place of a Social Security Number and is obtained through the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP).

**Applications for NFA courses that do not include a SID will not be processed.**

**To obtain a SID** Register at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>

1. Select "Need a FEMA SID?" on the right side of the screen.
2. Follow the instructions to create your account.

You will receive an email with your SID. Save this number in a secure location.

**Use the SID in place of the SSN on the General Admissions Application Form (FEMA Form 119-25-1) and General Admissions Application Short Form (FEMA Form 119-25-2).**

### **Additional Information**

General Admissions Application forms are being revised to eliminate the need for the SSN and include a field for the SID.



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### **Reminder for Fire Chiefs and Training Officers!**

Please notify Certification and Curriculum Manager Peter Rines at 207-844-844-2074 or [prines@smccme.edu](mailto:prines@smccme.edu) prior to starting an in-house or regional Firefighter I and II, Fire Instructor I and II or Fire Officer I and II program.

### **UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Upcoming Maine Fire Chiefs Workshop Offerings:**

January 12-23, 2012 in Skowhegan hosted by Somerset County Fire Chiefs. Contact Chief Roger Lightbody for details and registration information [madfire@beeline-online.net](mailto:madfire@beeline-online.net)

### **Special Announcement to MFSI Instructors**

**The next MFSI Instructors Regional Instructor Meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:**

*The Bangor Area MFSI Instructor Meeting scheduled for Saturday November 10, 2012 has been cancelled due the unavailability of instructors to attend the meeting.*

**Midcoast Area at the MFSI Office at Brunswick Landing November 17, 2012-**

**Be on the lookout for an email from your respective Training Program Manager for details and specific information.**

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**The Maine Fire Service Institute will be mailing a CD with updated policies and procedures and documents to MFSI Instructors who were**



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**unable to attend the Fall Instructor Workshop in October. You should anticipate the CD's to be mailed no later than December 1, 2012**

### ***"Maine Fire Chiefs Workshop"***

The Maine Fire Chiefs Association and the Maine Fire Service Institute have collaborated to create a Fire Chiefs Workshop. The workshop was created with a goal to provide new and aspiring fire chiefs with information to assist in the management and leadership of a fire department in Maine. The course is presented by current or former fire chiefs.

Courses are offered in a 4-Module 8 Hour or 8-Module 16 Hour format. Topics include: Legal Aspects, Professionalism and Politics, Fire Chiefs Role in Leading, Financial Management and Planning, Fire Chiefs Role in Coaching, Counseling and Correcting. Incident Management, Training Safety and Risk Management, Community and Media Relations.

County Fire Chiefs Associations or Fire Attack Schools interested in hosting an 8 or 16 hour course are encouraged to contact MFSI Director Bill Guindon at 207-844-2076 or [bguindon@smccme.edu](mailto:bguindon@smccme.edu).

### **Important Reminder!**

Anyone desiring to participate in certification testing shall have progress charts no less than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled written or skills examination. Walk-ons are not permitted. Contact



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Peter Rines, Certification and Curriculum Manager at [prines@smccme.edu](mailto:prines@smccme.edu) for more information

## **2012 and 2013 Written Certification Examination Dates**

<b>SMCC- Place 3rd</b>	Floor	Howe Hall	RM 301
<b>EMCC- Place 2nd</b>	Floor	Penobscot Hall	FIRE SCIENCE ROOM
<b>BRUNSWICK</b>		SMCC Midcoast Campus	MFSI Office

### **Location**

#### **SMCC**

November 26, 2012

December 17, 2012

### **Location**

#### **EMCC**

November 12, 2012

NO TEST

### **SMCC**

### **MFSI**

### **EMCC**

January 28, 2013	January 7, 2013	January 14, 2013
February 5, 2013	February 11, 2013	NO TEST
March 25, 2013	March 4, 2013	March 11, 2013
April 29, 2013	April 15, 2013	NO TEST
May 20, 2013	May 6, 2013	May13, 2013
June 24, 2013	June 10, 2013	NO TEST
July 29, 2013	June 22, 2013	July 15, 2013
August 26, 2013	August 12, 2013	August 16, 2013
September 30, 2013	September 9, 2013	September 16, 2013
October 28, 2013	October 7, 2013	NO TEST
November 4, 2013	November 18, 2013	NO TEST
December 30, 2013	December 2, 2013	NO TEST



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### **FIREFIGHTER I AND II SKILLS TESTING 2012**

**The Maine Fire Service Institute will be offering State Firefighter I and II Skills Certification testing at the following dates and locations:**

Nov 2012 November 3, 2012 in Brunswick\*

The Maine Fire Service Institute is conducting a Firefighter I and II Skills Test at the SMCC Midcoast Campus in Brunswick as a pilot evaluation due to the limited availability of a building that is being made available for our use. The MFSI is still utilizing the identified dedicated sites for testing in the future.

### **FIREFIGHTER I AND II SKILLS TESTING 2013**

*April 26, 2013 Auburn*

*May 18, 2013 Hollis or Yarmouth TBA*

*June 1, 2013 Hollis*

*June 30, 2013 Ellsworth*

*September 21, 2013 Caribou*

*October 12, 2013 Hollis*

*October 26, 2013 Bangor*

### **NFA Maine State Weekend April 13 & 14, 2013**

W486- Leveraging Technology for the Emergency Services

W349- Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters





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W520- Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Skills within Communities  
W804- Leadership II for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Personal Success  
W121- Politics and White Helmet

### **NFA in-State Deliveries**

**March 9-10, 2013- Brunswick, Maine** *(Look for flyers coming out in the later part of November!)*

F457- Decision Making for Initial Company Operations  
F522- Executive Skill Series: Exercising Leadership through Difficult Conversations

**September 28-29, 2013- Brunswick, Maine**

F121 - Politics and the White Helmet  
F522 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership through Difficult Conversations

*Please check the MFSI website for registration details and information [www.MaineFSI.org](http://www.MaineFSI.org)*

***The Maine Fire Service Institute is experiencing difficulties with the MFSI website beyond our control. We are in the process of reviewing proposals to design and construct a new website. Look for updates on the process soon!***

### **Fire Instructor I and II Courses**

The Maine Fire Service Institute will be offering Fire Instructor I and II courses in the following locations during the spring of 2013

Waterville, Ellsworth and Caribou (the Caribou course was moved from the fall of 2013 to increase enrollment. Look for registration information to be posted in November 2013. Go to Maine Fire Service Institute Website [www.MaineFSI.org](http://www.MaineFSI.org) for registration details and information.





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### ***Firefighter and Fire Officer Programs Coming UP!***

***The Maine Fire Service Institute has been informed that Firefighter Academies and Fire Officer programs will be held in the following areas in the near future:***

***York County- Firefighter I and II Academy and Fire Officer I and II Academy in the near future!***

Contact York County Fire Chiefs for information and details at [www.yorkcountychiefs.org](http://www.yorkcountychiefs.org)

**Please contact the Maine Fire Service Institute if  
you have a Firefighter, Fire Instructor or Fire  
Officer program announcement at  
Director Bill Guindon, [bguindon@smcceme.edu](mailto:bguindon@smcceme.edu) or  
207-844-2076**

***The Maine Fire Service Institute is a department of Southern Maine Community College***